

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are all the claims pending in the application. Previously, claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract as including legal phraseology. Applicants have amended the Abstract in a manner believed to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 6, and 8, under §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,347,558 to Miyaguchi et al. (hereinafter Miyaguchi). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Miyaguchi fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 2 sets forth a ball screw comprising: a number of balls; and spacers disposed between adjacent ones of the number of balls, wherein a variation of the total of gaps between the balls and the spacers during the rolling of the balls is smaller than 1/20 of the diameter of the ball.

Because the claim 2 sets forth a “total of gaps between the balls and the spacers”, inherently the claim includes at least some gap. In contrast to that set forth in claim 2, Miyaguchi recites that “it is possible to attain a charging rate of 100%”, as relied upon by the Examiner. In the case of a 100% charging rate, there is no gap between the ball and the spacer. Accordingly, Miyaguchi fails to disclose at least some gap, as is inherently included in claim 2.

For at least any of the above reasons, Miyaguchi fails to anticipate claim 2. Likewise, Miyaguchi fails to anticipate dependent claims 4, 6, and 8.

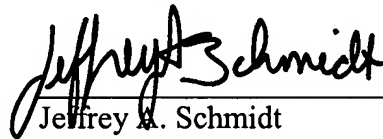
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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